

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claim Amendments

The Applicant has canceled claims 17-37; claims 38-55 have been added. Applicant respectfully submits no new matter has been added. Accordingly, claims 38-55 are pending in the application. Favorable reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Examiner Objections - Claims

Claims 25 and 30-31 were objected to because of informalities. The Applicant appreciates the Examiner's thorough review of the claims. The Applicant has canceled the claims.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a)

Claims 17-37 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ho et al (hereinafter Ho) (US 6,091,953) in view of Naqvi, et al. (hereinafter Naqvi) (US 6,850,763 B1). In order to expedite allowance of this application, the Applicant has canceled claims 17-37 without prejudice. Therefore, this rejection with respect to these claims is deemed to be moot. The Examiner's consideration of the new claims is respectfully requested.

Independent claim 38 recites using media gateways to provide a connection between access nodes. In addition, claim 1 recites allocating a circuit pathway between a switch and a target access node by allocating a circuit pathway between the switch and selected media gateway and allocating a non-dedicated circuit pathway between the selected media gateway and the target access node. Support for the amendments can be found in the Summary of the Invention and page 6, line 7- page 7, line 17. The cited references, Ho and Naqvi, do not disclose, individually or in combination, the limitations of claim 38. In addition, claims 39-44 depend from claim 38 and recite further limitations in addition to the novel elements of claim 38.

Independent claim 45 recites utilizing media gateways and a media gateway selection node to provide the connection between the access nodes. In addition, claim

45 recites allocating a circuit pathway between a switch and a target access node by allocating a circuit pathway between the switch and selected media gateway and allocating a non-dedicated circuit pathway between the selected media gateway and the target access node. Support for the amendments can be found in the Summary of the Invention and page 6, line 7- page 7, line 17. The cited references, Ho and Naqvi, do not disclose, individually or in combination, the added limitations of claim 45. In addition, claims 46-49 depend from claim 45 and recite further limitations in addition to the novel elements of claim 45.

Independent claim 50 recites using media gateways to provide the connection between the access nodes. In addition, claim 50 recites allocating a circuit pathway between a switch and a target access node by allocating a circuit pathway between the switch and selected media gateway and allocating a non-dedicated circuit pathway between the selected media gateway and the target access node. Support for the amendments can be found in the Summary of the Invention and page 6, line 7- page 7, line 17. The cited references, Ho and Naqvi, do not disclose the added limitations of claim 50. In addition, claims 51-53 depend from claim 50 and recite further limitations in addition to the novel elements of claim 50.

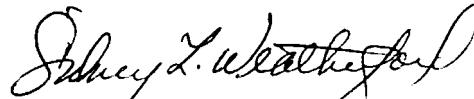
Claims 54 and 55 have been added and provide further limitations not disclosed in the cited references.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing remarks, the Applicant believes all of the claims currently pending in the Application to be in a condition for allowance. The Applicant, therefore, respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw all rejections and issue a Notice of Allowance for all pending claims.

The Applicant requests a telephonic interview if the Examiner has any questions or requires any additional information that would further or expedite the prosecution of the Application.

Respectfully submitted,



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